

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A composite material comprised of copper (Cu) and cuprous oxide (Cu_2O), characterized in that said composite material contains said cuprous oxide in an amount of 20-80vol%, the copper being in a Cu phase having a hardness in a range of 75 to 80 Hv, and the cuprous oxide being in a Cu_2O phase having a hardness in a range of 210 to 230 Hv, and said composite material is sintered.

20. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 19, wherein said composite material has a coefficient of thermal expansion of 5×10^{-6} to $14 \times 10^{-6}/^\circ\text{C}$.

21. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 19, wherein said composite material has a thermal conductivity of 30-325W/m • K in a range of room temperature to 300°C.

22. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 19, wherein said composite material has a coefficient of thermal expansion of 5×10^{-6} to $14 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a thermal conductivity of 30-325W/m • K in a range of room temperature to 300°C.

23. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 19, wherein the copper phase and the cuprous oxide phase are oriented in a direction of orientation, and wherein said composite material has a thermal conductivity in the direction of orientation greater than twice the thermal conductivity in a direction perpendicular to the direction of orientation.

24. (Currently Amended) A composite material comprised of copper(Cu) and cuprous oxide (Cu_2O), characterized in that said composite material contains said cuprous oxide in an amount of 40-80vol%, wherein said composite material is sintered, the copper being in a Cu phase having a hardness in a range of 75 to 80 Hv, and the cuprous oxide being in a Cu_2O phase having a hardness in a range of 210 to 230 Hv.

25. (Previously Presented) A composite material comprised of metal and inorganic particles,

wherein said metal includes at least one of Au, Ag, Cu and Al,

wherein said inorganic particles includes at least one of copper oxide, tin oxide, lead oxide and nickel oxide,

wherein said composite material is sintered, and

wherein said inorganic particles are dispersed in said composite material, and wherein said sintered composite material has been subjected to plastic working.

26. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 25, wherein the inorganic particles have an average coefficient of thermal expansion equal to or smaller than $5.0 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$, in the range of 20-150°C., and a Vickers hardness of 300 or less.

27. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 26, wherein said average coefficient of thermal expansion is equal to or smaller than $3.5 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$.

28. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 25, further including ceramic particles having a Vickers hardness of at least 1000 and an average particle diameter of at most 3 μm , in an amount of 5vol. %.

29. (New) A composite material according to claim 19, wherein the Cu_2O phase is in the form of particles dispersed in the composite material.